

# CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

Oct. 30, 2002

## NEWS BRIEFS

### KECC UPDATE

With only two more weeks left of the 2002 KECC campaign, the Cabinet for Health Services is still trying to meet its goal. If you have not yet completed your KECC pledge form please do so immediately. We do not want to fall short of our goal! If you have questions or need a blank pledge form, please contact your local KECC coordinator or the cabinet-wide coordinator, Gwen Mayes at [gwen.mayes@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:gwen.mayes@mail.state.ky.us).

Your KECC team is sponsoring a FALL BAZAAR to be held Oct. 30 in the CHR lobby. The Bazaar will include a yard sale, bake sale, cake auction, and a very special jewelry sale, featuring handmade beaded jewelry. We will also be selling CHS t-shirts and cookbooks.



### TIP OF THE WEEK

Flu shots will be given to Health Services' Employees on Oct. 30-31 from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. at the nurse's station on the first floor of the Health Services Building.

If you signed up to receive a shot, report to the nurse's station.

## Public Employee Recognition Week Honors CHS Staff

During the week of Oct. 7-11 and at other times during the month, CHS employees were honored as part of Public Employee Appreciation and Recognition Week.

Gov. Paul Patton recognized the hard work of employees on Oct. 7 with a proclamation. Below and on following pages are articles from CHS agencies with some of the employees who were honored.

### AGING SERVICES

The Office of Aging Services' Executive Director Jerry Whitley treated his employees to a variety of events throughout Employee Appreciation week, beginning by decorating the office with an employee appreciation banner and balloons and serving juice and muffins on Monday. A bulletin board with baby pictures of staff was posted on Tuesday and on Wednesday employees enjoyed an appreciation luncheon and words of praise from Whitley. On Thursday, a small flower or memento was placed on each employees desk with a personalized thank you note. Aging Services wrapped up the week on Friday with an afternoon employee appreciation tea.

### COMMISSION ON CHILDREN

In honor of Employee Appreciation week, the Commission on Children with Special Health Care Needs recognized achievements of the following employees and universal hearing program.

Sue Hardesty, care coordinator, and Sherry Brinegar, program

coordinator, both from the Elizabethtown office, received board certification from The Commission for Case Management Certification on December 1, 2001.

Becky Vanderhoof, an audiologist in the Elizabethtown office received board certification in hearing instrumentation from the Kentucky Licensing Board for Specialists in Hearing Instruments on August 21, 2002.

Mia S. Morgan in the Owensboro office received a certificate of appreciation from the American Red Cross in recognition of her valuable service on the Kentucky tornadoes and floods in April 2002.

Donna Fort in the Louisville office received an employee suggestion award.

The Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program administered by the Commission received a ranking of "excellent" by the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management.

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"...promoting and safeguarding the health and wellness of all Kentuckians."

## EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

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### MHMR-Mental Health

"I have something to recognize in everybody, but I'd like to single out five folks...who are examples of what staff here do that deserves our appreciation," says Bruce Scott, director, Division of Mental Health.

Beth Armstrong and Tena Robbins of the division received recognition for their work on the "Bridges" program in Eastern Kentucky through publication of a paper they wrote with Kari Collins of Kentucky River Community Care in the July/August issue of "Community Mental Health Report." Bridges is a national demonstration program to improve educational outcomes, especially for children with severe emotional disabilities.

Carla Mahan, who administers the provider network for Impact Plus, was also cited for outstanding work. This Medicaid program for children at high risk of institutionalization for severe emotional disabilities is undergoing a major redesign to control costs and focus resources on children who most need it. Carla has led the re-engineering of its systems.

Jodi Thompson of the division's

support staff was also recognized. Jodi's primary responsibility has been entering data for the system that evaluates outcomes for children in the Impact program, an inter-agency program for children with severe emotional disabilities.

Phyllis Parker is a professional member of the adult services staff who was recognized. In addition to routine staff duties, Phyllis has

responsibilities for mental health programs for the elderly, including the PASRR nursing home screening program, and for adults in long-term hospital or residential care. The division is observing steady progress toward

more recognition of the needs of these populations.



### CENTRAL STATE

Several Central State Hospital employees were recognized throughout the year for various suggestions and achievements.

Tommie Kendall, Guest Relations, was honored for his redesign of the Guest Relations work station window which saved the hospital \$2,474.

Darlene Lewis with the Business office suggested reducing the infectious waste pick-up schedule from weekly to twice a month, netting the hospital a savings of \$644.

Lloyd Lippert, Plant Operations, arranged for the Spencer County Road Department to remove coal ash, resulting in savings of \$10,200 per year for the hospital.

Lloyd Meyer, Plant Operations, built a mobile supply cart from surplus materials, generating savings of \$1,489.

Eddie Ramsey, Transitions Unit, takes interest in the patients and the hospital by listening to and motivating the patients to be involved in their own wellness. He has consistently gone the "extra mile" by taking the lead to empower patients in various activities, displaying a respectful attitude toward patients and co-workers, and by maintaining the values of teamwork in all he does.

Rose Evans, Grauman Unit, takes interest in the patients and the hospital by displaying a tireless attitude and going above the call of duty as a role model to other staff. She assists patients with their own wellness by conducting a weekly group with a nutritionist to help patients learn how to cook healthy meals for themselves.

The Pharmacy Department, which includes: Kay Bhaskar, Peggy Brashear, Teresa Bright, Larry Culver, Ronda Evans, Janice Logsdon, Brooks Pickard, Pat Randolph, and Thea Rogers was recognized for consistent and excellent service to hospital patients and staff.

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### EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

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#### MEDICAID SERVICES

The Department for Medicaid Services has initiated an Employee of the Quarter program, which is designed to recognize outstanding work performance. The employees are recognized in front of their peers during the department's quarterly staff meeting. During the meetings employees who have reached benchmark years of service are also recognized with a certificate and pin.

On Oct. 14, several employees were recognized who have contributed greatly to the department's success. In addition, the department was honored as a whole for the great work everyone has done through the first year of the reorganization.

The Employees of the Quarter for the second quarter were: Dr. Walton Moore, Susan Taulbee, Mary Walker, Beth Jennings, Vera Frazier, Teresa Phillips, Carol Turner, Lula Ray and Caron Tandy. They were presented certificates in June.

The Employees of the Quarter for the third quarter are: Tricia Salyer, Cliff Bailey, Evette Patton, Michelle Literal, Nola Southworth, Arlene Fluegge, Chee Chee Rogers, Cheryl Younger, Gina Oney, Sharon Murphy, Dan Brenyo, Debbie Cardwell, Connie Williams, Tamara Wilson, Lucy Senters, Lorraine Moore and Judy Bullock.

Specific examples are Vera Frazer and Beth Jennings from the

June pool of awardees. Frazer's nomination read, "Ms. Frazer is recognized for demonstrating the qualities so very important in a division as diverse and active as Long Term Care. She has a deep commitment and caring attitude towards the recipients...."

Ms. Jennings's nomination stated, "...she has worked with many different Medicaid programs and has been involved from the programmatic perspective in major system changes, including the transition from EDS to Unisys and development of the current prior authorization system.... She routinely provides assistance to other DMS employees in resolving recipient and provider inquiries, understanding or developing policy, and understanding how the system works with respect to particular situations."

From the October pool of awardees, there is Debbie Cardwell and Lorraine Moore. "Debbie is an extremely valuable staff member. Since coming to the Division of Medicaid Services for Mental Health/Mental Retardation, she has proven herself as an exemplary employee. ...She has willingly taken the (initiative) to learn new areas, and to apply the knowledge to the task at hand..."

Ms. Moore recognition states, "Lorraine is an asset to my branch, this division and the department. Her work with the web-sites and diligence regarding the content on the web are recognized throughout the cabinet. She always gives her best to her job and our customers."

### Billings Honored As Veterinarian of the Year

Dr. Sue Billings, a medical epidemiologist in the Department for Public Health, was recently named "Veterinarian of the Year" for her work on West Nile virus surveillance.

The Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association presented Dr. Billings with the honor at the awards ceremony of the group's annual conference, held Oct. 12 in Louisville.

Dr. Billings is a native of Lexington. She received her D.V.M. degree from Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1971 and her M.S.P.H. degree from the University of Kentucky in 1997. She practiced clinical veterinary medicine in Springfield with her husband until 1999 when she accepted a position as a medical epidemiologist with DPH.

The KVMA is the statewide constituency organization for veterinarians in Kentucky. It has nearly 1,000 members (over percent of veterinarians in Kentucky).

#### We're Late

Due to workload and other issues, we've missed a few Checkups. Our apologies.

--CHS Office of Communications